ON ALL FOOL'S DAY

Brainy Men Tell of First of April

Astor, Artist, Satirist, Lawyer, Presch Etc., All Have Something to Say About This, the Fool Catcher's Day.

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HE stage is in responsible for So the histo. rians tell us They say it old Easter miracle play in

which the sending of Christ from Anhas to Caiaphas and from Pilot to Herod was the basis of the mediæval framatist's plot. But I don't think the stage has stuck to its offspring. We actors are a serious lot of people, particularly the comedians among us, for paradoxical as it may seem, acting is all work and no play, and consequently Jack is a dull boy. We would



MISTER, PLEASE GIVE ME A LIFT, WILL YOU?"

like to April fool our manager, perhaps, but we don't April fool ourse'ves, be cause that would be rather cruel. I have outgrown the froliesomeness

of April 1, of course; still I always look carefully after my coattails on that day. And I greatly enjoy the motley of those who are careless about their garmental caudals during the Feast of All Fools. The sight makes me feel quite a boy again, for we youngsters used to do that sort of thing in Philadelphia thirty years ago. O yes, I did It, too. I believe that some of the livelier children of Philadelphia do it yet, and have vitality and energy enough left to laugh at the result, as a comic

paragrapher would say. The most foolhardy of all the tricks which I can recall in connection with this carnival of jeering and nonsense is one that I have never seen played since I was old enough to require two digits to express my age. A bag and two boys were the ingredients of the trick, and it never failed to score a great success on a quiet side street. One boy got into the bag and the other stood by it waiting for the victim. The rest of the boys who were "in on the ground floor" were hiding in hallways and doors and behind trucks across the street. An innocent citizen came sauntering along. The boy who had hold of the neck of the bag stopped him with a "Say, mister, please give me a lift, will yer?" The innocent citizen usually acquiesced and took hold | time's serious flight, when folly could

with palpitating heart and hair on end. while all the boys across the street | ful place in the calendar. It is not pursued him with a villainous chorus of "April fool! April tool! Wash your face and go to school!" or comething to the same effect. It always seemed to me that the joke rightly, far away as that time seems was really on the boy in the bag; he was sometimes dropped hastily aside their serious looks and grew and heavily and was hurt, and occa- younger instead of older. sionally the April-fooled citizen gave him a thrashing besides for being too and often an old codger lingered in the Shakespeare's admonition: "Mingle a shadow on the opposite pavement to little folly with your wisdom." witness and enjoy the sport. You have seen a man try to kick a plug hat full of pig iron over into the next state-



IT MADE RIM SMILE. Good Old Feliow-Ah, how it warms my beart to see them playing their little innocent bricks on the first of Aprill Used to do it myself when I was a boy. But they can't fool me, sugb-I'm too old a bird for that

than that of the man whose blood was frozen in his heart by the unexpected scream emitted by the occupant of the bag. Laugh? It would make a tombstone roll over in a fit of hysteries. JOHN DREW.

SOMETIMES IT GIVES PLEASURE TO OTHERS. It doesn't seem right that the first year. day of a month so full of pretty things as April is should be inseparably conbected in our minds with empty and dilapidated pocketbooks with stringand-small-boy attachments, disrep stable hats with bricks underneath them, long streamers hanging from ansuspecting coattails, door rung by invistble hands, and all the other dear old pleasantries that we know by heart. And we should prob. ably have had a society for the prerention of April fool tokes long ago if n were not for the pleasure that chil-

dren get out of them. When a certain boy of my acquaintance on April first, before breakfast, forms me that somebody is waiting see me in the library, not for the world would I refuse to go downstairs and pretend extreme surprise at finding nobody there. Nor would anything induce me to decline the suspicious-looking, cotton-filled piece of sandy which is shortly after offered to me by a small girl I know. I bite into it and splutter over it regularly Y. Weekly.

every year, and Mr. Nat Goodwin or Mr. Francis Wilson would be glad if he could raise such a shout of laughter

as easily and unfailingly.

Apropos of this train of thought there is a little picture of mine in Puck, published some years since, which will perhaps bear transplanting here, and which I subjoin.

FREDERICK BURR OPPER.

"DE RAZOO" IS SUGGESTED. If yer want a good joke on some of yer fren's, give dem de razoo, see? Dat's de way dey do in New York on April Fool - day. Yer work it dis way:

Suppose a man owes yer ten dollars and won't pay yer. Go see him and ask him for it. He ses he ain't got it. Wipe de floor wid him and take all de cash in his pockets and when he kicks apologize and say yer didn't mean fer ter hurt him-it's April Fool, see? Den yer needn't give him de money back, 'cause he owes it, yer see? Course yer don't want ter try de razoo on anyone

not under yer size, see? Den yer kin pay off all yer old grudges de same way. Or if yer hungry and ain't got no money walk inter restrint, see, and eat all yer kin, and say it's April Fool, see, and run out widout payin' nothin'.

Dat's de racket fer April Fool-de

TO LESSEN THE DEVIL'S FOOLS.

I am asked for a sentiment concerning April Fool's day and pause in the whirl and rush of a righteous warfare to say that in my opinion time is far too valuable and important a factor for a moment to be lost in foolish jesting or senseless joking. The world, especially in these days, is in far too critical and dangerous a position, socially and religiously, to allow of a man with average sense—to say noth-ing of those who have consecrated brains-to indulge in any other than profitable and upright intercourse.

It is a personal relief to me to feel that in our ranks seventeen hundred officers and sixteen thousand unpaid local workers will be pushing with might and main of soul an enterprise which upholds sincerity and the necessity of lessening the devil's fools. BALLINGTON BOOTH.

A CHAMPION FOR THE DAY. Before stating what jokes seem to me timely and enjoyable for this



" WIPE DE FLOOR WID HIM."

April Fool's day, I cannot resist the temptation to say that I think the spirit of the holiday itself has always been singularly misunderstood. The day is really to be deemed a pause in of the bag to land it on the youngster's with propriet; travesty wisdom, and shoulder. Just as he got it fairly in set the world smiling. As it is, the s hands the boy in the bag suddenly | first of April has come to be deemed a kicked and screamed. Innocent vicnuisance, when its observance is not tim, thinking it a barful of wildcats done away with entirely. April Fool's or hyenas, let go quickly and ran off day is sadly in need of some one to champion it and restore it to its rightsimply the day on which the boys and girls may make fools of their elders with impunity. I suspect that there was a time when it was regarded to us now. Then the old people put

If it takes a wise man to be a fool, reservation of superiority to mere surely April first is the feast day funny. But it was an effective trick, of the sages, when they can act on

As for those jokes which seem to ma good and appropriate to the day it for the smartest houses, and here they should always be understood that the are. But the most exclusive society, a element of surprise is the essential society which prides itself upon exthing. Novelty is wit. Jokes must not tension rather than intension of wealth be cruel pranks, otherwise the day |-this phrase always pleases the Boswould be given up to a general hazing tonians—is found mainly at the other of everybody. The most successful of end of the avenue, near Washington April Fool jokes would be to surprise square. We will not drive there. There one's friends by a change of character. is nothing to see. The houses are all What a rare joke it would be for the plain and square and old fashioned. confirmed miser to bestow a dowry upon that niece of his who needs only a little money to marry the lad of her choice. If all the cranks would put generalities to particulars-my latest eside their hobbies for a day, what fun it would be for the rest of us.

This kind of joke can be carried out ad finitum and would never fail to be successful. Let the tippler remain sober to-day just as a joke. The skinflint employer can have a lark with his clerk by granting that increase of salary that has been talked about so long. Let the clergyman-I say it reverently-preach a sermon only an hour long to-day instead of one of four hours' duration. I am convinced that the idea would meet with success. People too old for jokes on April Fool's day? Nonsense. Even the gray heads can have their joke. The repro-bate roue can go to church this morning and explain that it is all a joke on his part. Many a man is ashamed to do Many a man is ashamed to do a good thing because it is so unusual with him that it would give him un-pleasant prominence. But he can do it to-day and escape with the admisam glad the day comes on Sunday this

That Was Not Enough

"I den't want you to leave me, namma," said little Frances after she was tucked up in bed. "I'll be in the next room, dear, and

I'll leave the door ajar," replied mam-

"Aiar isn't enough. Leave it two

or three jars."-Judge. Masculine Smartness. Mr. Grump's Wife-What a pity young

think they are. Mr. Grump—It is a wise provision of nature, my dear. If they were as smart as they think they are they would never marry.-Indianapolis Journal

men are not really as smart as they

Caught the Idea. Miss Antique-I must have a dress for the ball, and you must do your very best to make it effective.

M. Capaw (French dressmaker)-Out madame; I comprond. You vish to be -vat you call him?-modernized-N.

RICH ATTIRE

aster Week and Its Glories of Gown and Hat and "Fixings."

Her Neighbors—The Apotheosis of the "Tailor-Made" Spring nets and Jackets

If I am asked to show a visiting friend the smartest houses in New York I straightway hire a democratic cab and proceed to "do" Fifth avenue north from Madison square. The gilt and glitter and splendor of the panorama strike her as I show her the brownstone packing boxes of the dead and gone Vanderbilts and recite glibly as a verger in an English church how the old Commodore paid four hundred thousand dollars for a ramshackle green house and the land upon which it stood. I talk to her of the Astor family fend as we pass the Hotel Waldorf, whose blank wall is the biggest and costliest "spite fence" in all Christendom. I point out the Coleman Drayton house, not large but exquisitely beautiful. I speak of the Goelet tapestries and of the wondrous art treasures of "Willie" Vanderbilt. At the corner of Fiftyseventh street, I point to the late Mrs. W.C. Whitney's home, beautiful and simple, and describe its broad hall and exquisite ballroom; and the huge and ugly pile that Cornelius Vanderbilt has just completed. I tell of the wonderful wood carvings in C. P. Huntington's equally big and ugly house opposite, and how a sculptor friend of mine, Mr. Hill, worked for months upon these poems in wood relief. Then I pause at the green entrance to our wonderful park, wave my hand negligently, as if I owned all these splendors, at the roofs beyond and tell of the Tiffany house and the Villard

houses on Madison avenue, and-"These are the real swellest of the

there was but one touch of color in the whole picture, that of a huge bunch of

There was a costume of dull colors, harmoniously set, worn by another tall brunette, a mulberry-colored cloth with a plain skirt and jacket back, opening over a blouse front of cream colored satin, and trimmed with a profusion of knots and bows and kickshaws of material, black silk silk silk on Indeed. watered-black silk ribbon. Indeed, of this old-fashioned material there was everywhere profusion, due no doubt to a decent regard for British example. The same lugubrious trimming was used with good effect upon a close-fitting tailor gown of iron gray with jacket back and blouse front of vieux

The jacket or half jacket is almost universal this spring. It is pretty, chio and convenient. It gives to the figure, seen from behind, a business-like trimness of effect that is wonderfully softened when the blouse front comes into view. It is the compromise of the womanly desire for form and fabric at

I would not like to say of what heterodoxies of corseting the "tailor made" has been the cause. I'm inclined to think that between the tailor's ideal of twenty-two inches for woman's waist and the artist's ideal of twenty-eight, the former comes much nearer realization.

It is a pleasure always to look at new gowns; and there is a double pleasure in having them this Easter week when spring is here and summer

is at hand, and we reamse that soon there will be no more wearing of heavy wraps. Nothing so quickly spoils the airy jauntiness of a pair of balloon sleeves as the pressure of a heavy wrap. The young men of New York have become quite proficient in the art, after helping a lady don her cloak, of smoothing down the lapels of the dress beneath and stowing away the dress sleeves to best advantage within the sleeves of the coat. But the tenderest swells," my visitors will then say, care will not prevent damage and-with a frank sigh of satisfaction if and besides this kind of care seems a care will not prevent damage and-



she's from the west, with a mental trifle intimate for casual acquaintance. wealth and with precise epithet if from

This is my opportunity. It never fails me, and I never fail it. "Oh, dear, no!" I say.

But perhaps-"Oh, will you, really?"

And so we went-to descend from visitor and myself; she, from Mariborough street, in the city of the sacred codfish, quite at home among the stately old houses in the north side of Washington square, and quite in harmony with the white and gold furnishings of the room we entered, and the subdued but tasteful costumes of their occupants, robed for Easter Tuesday

The duchess of Washington square: my duchess-for there are many of them, on the square and lower Fifth avenue and the streets adjacent-was reared and is versed in the school of lace. Indeed, were I to begin generalizing again, I should say that a very aristocratic gathering of New York ladies would be chiefly noticeable by the lace of the elder ones and the "tailor mades" of the younger. My hostess' white hair was coiled high upon her head and fell in wavy ripples down her temples, and her gown was of black, with a touch of heliotrope by way of vivacity, and from every vantage point of collar and elbow and hem of waist fell such wonderful yellow lace as those who aren't of "the old families, my dear," may sigh for, but never gain. And the younger ladies who received with her wore house gowns after their several fashions, and these, with the shifting colors of the collars' raiment, made up a picture of

delightful and sincere grace. There was one exquisite creature who stood close to one of the white painted Corinthian pillars which marked off the drawing-room from the music-room beyond, as if she knew that the contrast heightened the effect of her dark beauty. She was tall and Junoesque. Her eyes were large and full and humid and appealing, and mischievous, and pathetic, and a hundred other things all at once, and her hat, which she did not remove, was a wide brimmed felt, with its huge black plume against the white pillar, and her gown was black and of perfect fit, and

A decent regard for British example it must be also which has made so popular a style of trimming which can nardly be called by any other name than bib. Just why a square or pointed shield of knife plaits reaching to the bosom and edged with a fold of yellow lace should be considered beautiful I cannot understand. The lace hangs away from the figure much like that hideosity, a mantel lambrequin, from the wall beneath it, and gives to the figure a peculiar chopped off appearance, anything but aesthetically satisfactory. Better are the equally British devices of sequin trimming and of full lace corsages, held in place by satin waist ribbons.

British, too, was a costume of black moire antique, with full sleeves and double basques, over a vest of sage green cloth, with large steel buttons, a steel buckle for the waistband and two others to unite the moire and cloth portions of a composite collar. The plain hanging skirt was of the cloth. I think it rather an original idea to use the silk for the coat and the rough cloth for the vest. At any rate the effect was good. It was distinctly an out-door gown and such a delightful contrast to the house dress of one of the receiving matrons, a study in black and white, the bodice of black satin brocaded in white, with full sleeves of white satin, the cuffs whereof were trimmed with tiny ruches of black ribbon. A little vest of the black satin had at each side an insertion band of black ribbon and the side panels of white satin were barred across in the same theatric manner. ELLEN OSBORN.



things right. Bride-Row so

Groom-Why, it says we wur married at Hymen's altar-an' it wur at ole



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